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COMMENT OF THE DAY

Mandate For M. Laniel

THE vote of confidence which the French National Assembly has given Premier Laniel not only implies tacit approval of his Government's domestic and foreign policies, but enables France's foreign minister to attend the forthcoming Big Four conference fully empowered to present his nation's point of view on any matters which may arise. This too is of moment to the British and American delegates for it is essential that in dealing with broad fundamentals, the Western Allies should speak with a united voice. Whatever its shortcomings, the Bermuda conference undoubtedly produced a considerable measure of agreement between the Big Three as to the principles to be followed at the Berlin parleys, and this made it essential that it should be M. Laniel to represent France, thus eliminating any possibility of dissension among the Western delegates on essentials. By its action yesterday the French National Assembly has shown that, despite its bitter partisanship on many occasions, it is still capable of placing national interests first when the necessity arises. The vote of confidence was more than an endorsement of M. Laniel's policies; it represented a gesture of national solidarity on an issue of profound international importance, and at the same time it bolstered the nation's self-respect.

THIS has been a week of personal triumph for M. Laniel, for in addition to obtaining his confidence vote, he also has had the satisfaction of seeing the French Budget approved. The future of his Government, however, is still subject to a considerable number of factors. If any real measure of success is achieved at the Berlin conference, and if he can bring about an honourable armistice in Indo-China, he could expect to be swept back into power at the next elections, more particularly as he would assuredly win the firm support of the present wavering Moderates. His reiteration in the Assembly yesterday that his Government still desired to negotiate peace in Indo-China (but a peace that will ensure the independence of the Associated States) is certain to receive a popular response in France. Moreover, his disclosure that the country was heading for financial solvency and that an impressive recovery had been made from the financial crisis of last year, further enhances the prestige of himself and his political colleagues. His hardest problem, of course, is still to obtain ratification of the European Defence Community pact. But this too would probably become less formidable if the foreign ministers' conference produces positive and satisfactory results, or in the event of hostilities in Indo-China being brought to an end. The future holds big question marks for the Laniel Government, but at least it has been given a temporary mandate to forge ahead and tackle prime international problems in the manner M. Laniel deems best.

Officer Writes Suicide Note, Steals Then Crashes Military Plane

London, Oklahoma, Jan. 6. An Army captain wrote a suicide note today, stole a small military plane and crashed it on the Rock Island railway tracks in the path of an approaching train.

State troopers tagged down the train this in time to prevent it crashing into the small L-10 Army trainer. When they examined the plane, which lay on its back, but was not badly damaged, they found no trace of the pilot. The note was addressed to his wife, who lives with their two children at nearby Walling. He had not appeared at his home many hours after the crash.

He was identified as Captain Harvey Collins, 28, of Tacoma, Washington. He was stationed at the Army base of Fort Sill and was flying Army aviation school. His suicide note was addressed to his wife, who lives with their two children at nearby Walling. He had not appeared at his home many hours after the crash.

RUSSIA AGREES TO JOIN IN ATOMIC TALKS
Preliminary Discussions In Washington

Moscow, Jan. 6. Russia announced today she was ready to join the United States in preliminary discussions in Washington on the problem of atomic energy. Mr Molotov gave the Soviet decision today to the American Ambassador, Mr Charles Bohlen. An official communique issued by the Soviet Foreign Ministry said that Mr Georgi Zarubin, Soviet Ambassador in Washington, would represent the Russian Government at the preliminary talks. No date was given for the start of the meeting, though it was indicated this would precede the Foreign Ministers' conference on January 25.

The communique said the Washington talks would consist of an exchange of views on the procedure to be adopted in the eventual atomic energy negotiations. There would be a discussion on the time, place and agenda of the final meeting.

The communique was issued by the Soviet Foreign Ministry and prominently printed in Pravda and Izvestia.

The communique said: "The American Ambassador, C. Bohlen, visited V. M. Molotov on December 31, 1953, and told him that in connection with the statement of the Soviet Government of December 21 on President Eisenhower's speech of December 8, in which the Soviet Government expressed its readiness to take part in negotiations on the question of atomic energy, the Government of the United States wished to exchange views about procedure in connection with the above-mentioned negotiations and especially about the time, place and agenda."

"Ambassador Bohlen suggested that this exchange of views be carried out by the State Department of the United States of America and either the Soviet Ambassador in Washington or the Soviet representative in the United Nations before the Berlin conference of Foreign Ministers."

Russia And Indo-China

Paris, Jan. 6. The Soviet Union may raise the question of a truce in Indo-China during the forthcoming Big Four Foreign Ministers' conference in Berlin, diplomatic quarters said here tonight.

They noted that only today, Pravda, the Soviet Communist Party organ, stated that "the solution of the Indo-China problem by peaceful means in the immediate future would assist the reduction of international tension."

French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault has no intention of broaching this question during the Berlin conference, a French Foreign Office spokesman said tonight.

The prime purpose of the Berlin conference was to reach a settlement on Austria and Germany, and the French Government considered that Berlin was not the proper place for a "fruitful examination" of the Indo-China question, he said.

of the four Powers; or else the exchange of views could take place in Berlin during the above-mentioned conference. "On January 6, 1954, V. M. Molotov received C. Bohlen and told him the Soviet Government had discussed the proposal of the forthcoming negotiations on atomic energy and in particular about the time, place and agenda of the negotiations. "The Soviet Government, like the Government of the United States, considers it desirable to discuss the above-mentioned question and agrees that the discussions should start in Washington. "On its part the Soviet Government has authorized the Soviet Ambassador in the United States, V. N. Zarubin, to take part in these discussions. "C. Bohlen promised to bring the Soviet Government's reply to the notice of the American Government."—Reuter.

LONDON REACTION
London, Jan. 7. Russia's agreement to meet the United States this month for talks about the peaceful use of atomic energy reduces Western fears that Moscow might use the Foreign Ministers' Berlin conference as a propaganda platform for demanding the outlawing of atomic weapons, diplomatic sources here said today.

The Berlin conference, which opens on January 25, has no formally agreed agenda, and Western diplomats believed Mr Vyacheslav Molotov would take the opportunity of repeating Soviet demands for a world ban on the use of the atom weapon.

The Western Powers have repeatedly rejected the Soviet plea on the ground that the outlawing of atomic weapons would be futile unless backed by a foolproof system of international atomic control.

It is appreciated here that the forthcoming Soviet-American talks announced by Moscow last night will be limited to the procedure for holding full-scale conferences on President Eisenhower's plan for an atomic energy pool.

But it means that if M. Molotov raises the atom question in Berlin the Western Powers will be fully justified in refusing to talk about it pending the outcome of the Washington talks.

The fact that Moscow last night named Mr Georgi Zarubin, one of the Soviet Union's most senior diplomats, to attend the talks is taken here as an encouraging sign. — China Mail Special.

Rugby Team Wiped Out In Plane Crash

London, Jan. 7. Fifteen airmen returning to their base after playing in a Rugby football match were killed in an air crash 25 miles north-west of London last night. The only survivor of the disaster is seriously ill in hospital. The men were from the RAF Navigation School at Thorney Island, Portsmouth. They were returning there after playing in a Royal Air Force Rugby Cup tie. Rescue teams, working in falling snow, had recovered ten bodies later tonight. One of the injured died in hospital. The plane crashed into trees on a hill soon after taking off from Bovingdon, Hertfordshire. The front and the engines were torn off and the fuselage plunged on another 120 yards. Bodies were found all along the trail of the wreckage. The four or five of those aboard were the plane's crew. The others were members of a navigation school rugby football team.—Reuter.

Laniel Wins Vote Of Confidence

Paris, Jan. 6. The government of French Premier, M. Joseph Laniel, today won a resounding victory in the French National Assembly on a vote of confidence asked for by the French Conservative leader.

By 319 votes to 248, the Assembly agreed to accede to M. Laniel's request to postpone the debate on questions of government policy. M. Laniel had earlier stated that the vote would be one of confidence in his government. A total of 568 votes were cast.

The Premier's majority was made up as follows: A total of 83 MRP (Christian Democrats) out of 89; 69 URAS (former of 78; 49 independent out of 54; 33 Radicals out of 70; 29 ARS out of 34; 28 independent Peasants; 20 Democratic and Socialist Union of Resistance out of 25; 1 overseas independent out of 15.

M. Laniel's victory, which followed the rejection of his request to resign by both former President Vincent Auriol and the in-coming President Rene Coty, was obtained with the mass support of the URAS (former de Gaulle) group. The de Gaulle group, who had strong reservations when the European question had been debated, rallied behind M. Laniel today—a factor that gave the French government a strong mandate to take to Berlin for the forthcoming four-power talks.

It was understood that a few Radicals had joined the Socialists and Communists in opposition to the Premier. M. Laniel asked for the vote of confidence following his before the Assembly. He asked the Assembly to ensure that the French delegation at the Berlin conference would have the backing of Parliament.

DECISION EXPLAINED
A spokesman for the de Gaulle group, M. Raymond Schmitz, told the Assembly after it had reconvened from a two-hour recess that the overwhelming majority of his group had decided to vote in favour of the postponement of the debate asked for by the government.

He told the packed Assembly that the vote would be given because the absence of a French government might prevent France from taking part in the four-power conference in Berlin or could even force a postponement of that conference.

Rallying behind the powerful personality of the French Premier, today were the MRP (Christian Democrats) and the moderate and right-wing independents. Joining the de Gaulle group were about 30 Radicals, most of whom found the Premier's statement on France's policy too optimistic and too critical of his Radical predecessor, M. Rene Mayer.

Other factions which gave the French government a powerful mandate to take to Berlin included the de Gaulle splinter group (ARS) and the Democratic and Socialist Union (UDSR). It was understood that the overseas independents had abstained. M. Laniel gained his vote despite intense opposition to France's participation in a European defence community, particularly from the URAS group. The URAS group, which had a position of no confidence in the government, called for two consecutive decisions—either full support

Political Confusion In Italy

Rome, Jan. 6. Italy was tonight headed for a period of political confusion after yesterday's collapse of Premier Giuseppe Pella's Government, according to commentators of all Parties.

The President of the Republic, Signor Luigi Einaudi, will begin his search for a new Prime Minister on Thursday. His consultations with political leaders of all parties are expected to last till Saturday.

An agency, reputed to reflect the views of former Premier Alcide De Gasperi, leader of the country's biggest Party, the Christian Democrats, wrote tonight "we must expect a period of confusion that may be long and dangerous, and that must result in one of two things: "1. Either an emergency Government, or "2. New elections."

The agency added that the present Italian Parliament, elected in general elections last June, could produce no stable government.

In the new Parliament, the sharply-divided centre Democratic Parties only slightly outnumber the combined opposition of Communist and left and neo-Fascist right.

After his consultations with Party leaders, the President is expected to invite a Christian Democrat leader to try to form Italy's third Government in six months.

FIRST CHOICE
Commentators tonight thought he would first pick on the leader of the left-wing of the Party, 45-year-old Amintore Fanfani, suggesting that he attempt coalition with the three small centre Parties—Social Democrats, Republicans and Liberals.

But the creation of such a coalition might encounter serious difficulties from the Christian Democrat right-wing. This wing's candidate for the Presidency is expected to be Signor Attilio Piccioni, 61, lawyer and Party organizer who failed to get up a government last August. Any government he headed would depend for survival in Parliament on the support of the strongly right-wing Monarchists.

Signor De Gasperi, the "grand old man" of the Party, is reported to believe the only way out of the crisis is new elections. But other Party members point to the claims of the Communists and their Allies that new elections might make them the biggest political force in the country.

In the last elections, the extreme left-wing following jumped from seven to nine and a half millions in an exceptionally high poll of 23 millions.

The left-wing is generally expected to gain again in immediate elections, while the Democratic Parties, after their failure to produce a new coherent policy, would have difficulty in driving their adherents to the polls. In addition, all the Centre Parties are reported to be suffering from severe financial difficulties as a result of the money they spent in the last campaign.—Reuter.

8-Year-Old Girl Kidnapped

London, Jan. 6. An eight-year-old girl, kidnapped in Brighton, Sussex, today after her mother had received threatening letters. The girl, Colin Brayans, was leaving school when an unknown woman was said to have caught her by the arm in front of a surprised schoolmaster and to have dragged her to a car which drove off immediately in the direction of London. The mystery surrounding the affair was increased by the fact that after receipt of the threatening letters a special watch was kept by the police at the school entrance, and the young girl was always accompanied home by her mother. — France Press.

Strikes Now Inevitable

London, Jan. 6. Britain's key industries will suffer from "guerrilla" strike action by electrical workers, culminating in a national 24-hour strike because employers and workers cannot agree on their overtime rate. Ministry of Labour officials who took over when the parties announced that they could not agree, failed to heal the breach over the higher pay claims for 40,000 workers. — China Mail Special.

Police Break Jewellery Racket

Manila, Jan. 6. Constabulary and postal operatives today broke a flourishing racket involving the illegal importation of jewellery from Hongkong through the mails by alien businessmen with Filipino posing as dummies. The lid was removed with the arrest today of a Chinese trader and his Filipino dummy while in the act of receiving two parcels from Hongkong estimated to cost more than \$15,000 in assorted jewellery. Seized from the pair were 714 pairs of ear-rings, 676 pairs of automatic silver car-rings, 444 pieces of gold-plated fancy hair-pins, 17 pieces of gold-plated ladies' bracelets and 17 pieces of fancy rings. The estimated cost was \$15,000. It was stated that the parcels, intended for commercial purposes, were declared as gifts. "Early" this morning, after the arrest, constabulary units cracked open a multi-million peso washed-stamp syndicate operating on a nationwide scale. Arrested were a lawyer and drugstore owner believed to be the distributors of washed stamps. Constabulary authorities said they already knew the mastermind of the syndicate behind the racket which collected used stamps from government and private firms and washed them chemically to be re-sold to the public.—France-Press.

HAD A DAY OUT

Auckland, Jan. 6. Allan Renote, 23-year-old driver, had a day out at a picnic here with two dozen bottles of beer. He became drunk, the Auckland Police Court was told, used obscene language in a crowd, kicked a soldier in the ribs, and then set fire to the area. The fire brigade worked for an hour to quell the flames. He was fined £28.—Reuter.

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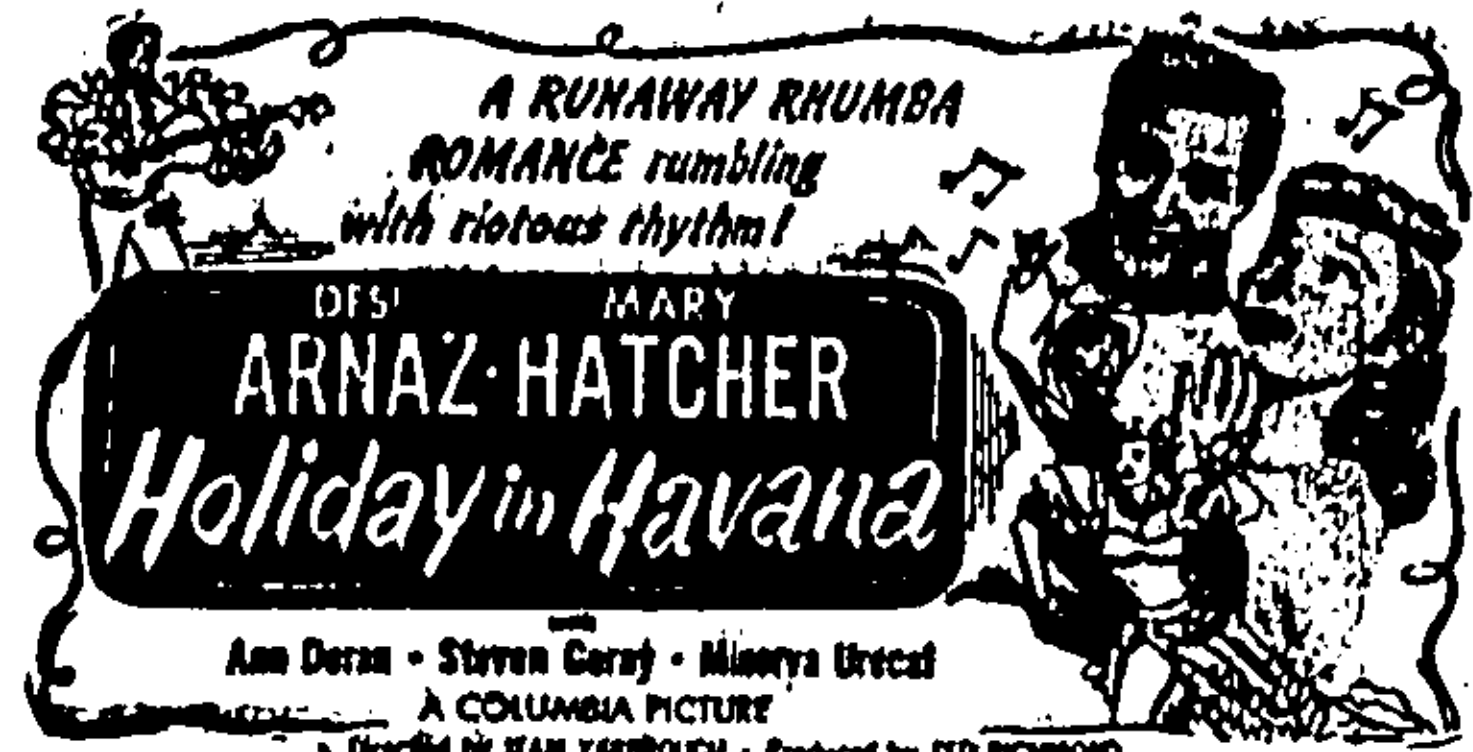
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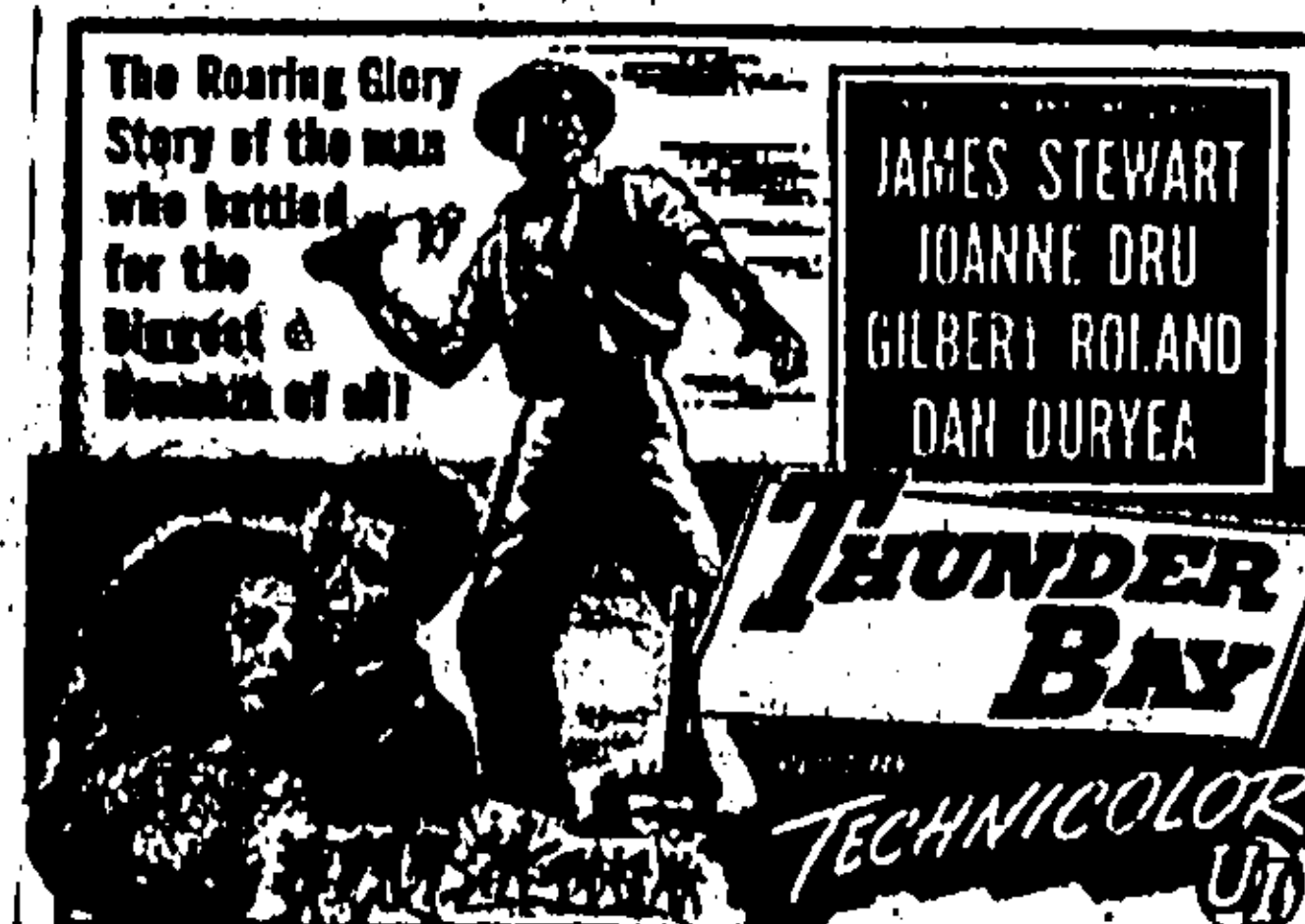
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Bringing Satellites Into Party Line

4 COUNTRIES TO GET NEW POST-STALIN POLICY FROM MOSCOW

Munich, Jan. 6.

All East European Communist parties will hold national congresses this year to work out new programmes following the radical changes in Communist strategy after Stalin's death.

Radio Sofia's announcement recently that the Bulgarian Communist Party will hold a Congress on February 27 brings Bulgaria into line with three other satellites which had made such announcements in the course of the last five weeks.

The Polish Communists will meet on January 16, the Czechoslovaks on June 11, the Hungarians sometime in April.

Many Protests At Reports Of U.S. Aid To Pakistan

London, Jan. 6.
A Foreign Office spokesman said today the British Government had no information concerning a reported statement by the Indian Deputy Defence Minister to the effect that the Soviet Union had informed Afghanistan that it would use Afghan airports in case Pakistan concluded a military pact with the United States.

The spokesman referred to previous statements by the Foreign Office that Britain was being informed by the United States as well as by Pakistan of the talks underway between the two countries regarding military aid.

The spokesman said that the request made by the Afghan government to Britain to revise the Anglo-Afghan Treaty was still "under consideration".

It was indicated here that there was no connection between this request and the approach made yesterday by the Afghan Ambassador in Washington with the State Department concerning Pakistan and the protests by India, the Soviet Union and Communist China regarding the proposed United States military aid to that country.

Whitehall sources said that Pakistan was an independent and sovereign country free to conclude pacts with any country.

It was believed that reinforcing the defensive power of Pakistan would help to increase the defence of the entire sub-continent; and of the Middle East.—France-Press.

"QUEEN OF ENGLAND"

Scots Lodge New Protest Against Title

Stirling, Scotland, Jan. 6.
The Scottish Nationalist Party issued a communique here to-night protesting against the reference to Queen Elizabeth as the Queen of England in her Christmas Day broadcast programme.

The Party's Executive Committee stated in the communique that such "errors" had been made so often that they could only be regarded as proof of a new policy toward Scotland by the present government.

There is no doubt, indicated the communique, that the Scottish nation can not accept the status of a province of England. An earlier protest about the Queen's message was made on Monday by the Scottish St. Andrew Society.—France-Press.

The only East European Communist Party which has not yet made any announcement about a congress is the Rumanian Workers' Party, but Western observers expect the Rumanians to make a similar decision shortly.

The decisions to hold national congresses were taken by the East European Communists at a time when "the new course", the so-called liberal economic policy initiated by Moscow is being matched by the satellite governments.

It is expected that the congresses will introduce considerable changes in the composition of the leadership of the Communist parties in the satellite countries, and will try to work out a new political set up, more closely related to the present alignment in Moscow.

POLITICAL NECESSITY
The Congresses are seen here as a political necessity, since the changes in the Moscow top leadership and the new economic programme have resulted in sharp differences of opinion in some, if not all, of the satellite Communist parties.

This is especially true of the Polish Communists where the sudden switch order by Moscow from expansion of heavy industry towards greater consumer goods production, food and housing has resulted in unprecedented and violent discussions within the Central Committee of the Party.

The interesting thing is that the discussion, although in a modified and watered-down form, has been published in the Polish Communist theoretical periodical Nowe Drogi.

The last issue of the periodical makes it clear that Communist

opinion in Poland is divided between those who want to proceed with complete collectivization at full speed, those who are willing to increase food production by abandoning collectivization altogether and those who hold a middle course.

AGGRESSIVE SPEECH

Western observers noted the extremely aggressive speech at the Central Committee meeting of Jakob Berman, one of the most influential bosses of Polish Communism. Berman attacked the left wing of the Party and said their policy was one of "retardation" that is to say, he attacked them for wishing to follow Russia's example in collectivizing agriculture, so as to be safe when Moscow changes the line again.

The present policy is to maintain those co-operatives which are already organized, but to put the main force on the "medium" peasants who are to be helped by the Government to increase production.

The discussion within the Polish Central Committee is an astonishing expression of the degree of confusion and lack of leadership which the satellites have been experiencing in the last few months.

Apparently, they received only the most general directives from Moscow and have the greatest difficulty in understanding the relative importance and power of the various people in the Soviet "collective leadership."

Recent events in Hungary and Czechoslovakia also have followed a similar and vague course. The impression here is that the satellites, while still held in grip by Moscow, have acquired a large degree of liberty than ever before.—United Press.

He Took It Out On His Car

Chicago, Jan. 6.
The FBI said today that Donald Knudsen, 28, admitted he stole an auto belonging to his former employer, Walter Jankowski, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and drove the car to Chicago, where he said he then landed it against a brick wall because he just "didn't like" Jankowski.—United Press.

W. German Firms To Build U.S. Bases In Spain

Dusseldorf, Jan. 6.
Talks now underway on the participation of West German firms in the construction of American bases in Spain were making progress despite sharp foreign competition, informed economic circles said here today.

The construction projects—which include airports, roads and harbour installations—were said to involve a total value of \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000.

The West German Economic Ministry, these sources said, has agreed to an American proposal that the Bonn Government purchase about 10 per cent of the United States for a sum equal to a certain percentage of the earnings made by the German firms on the construction projects.

It was said that the Food and Agriculture Ministry's approval would also be forthcoming.—France-Press.

Russia Agrees To Big-4 Meeting Place

Berlin, Jan. 6.
The representative for the Soviet High Commission in Berlin, Serge Deming, agreed to discuss tomorrow with the three Western commanders the technical preparations of the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Deming accepted the Western proposal that the meeting should take place at 1030 hours tomorrow in the Olympic stadium at the British headquarters.

Shortly before receiving the Russian answer, the three Western commanders had met to prepare for tomorrow's talks.—France-Press.

"We're Wasting Money on this Man"

McCarthy Is Accused Of 'Rehashing & Plagiarising'

Washington, Jan. 6.
Senator Allen Ellender (Democrat, Louisiana) said today, most of the \$200,000 spent by Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigating sub-committee last year was wasted. He claimed wide support for a plan to cut the sub-committee's funds.

Simultaneously Senator Karl Mundt (Republican, South Dakota) proposed that the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee be given "full scale" full powers. Committee staffs and a clear field to investigate subversive activities.

Senator Mundt denied this would cut down the power of Senator McCarthy's permanent investigating sub-committee, of which Senator Mundt is a member. Rather, he said, it would intensify the fight against Communism.

Senator Mundt also suggested that the House and Senate Republican leaders form a "steering committee" to clear investigations by major committees of both Houses. He said this

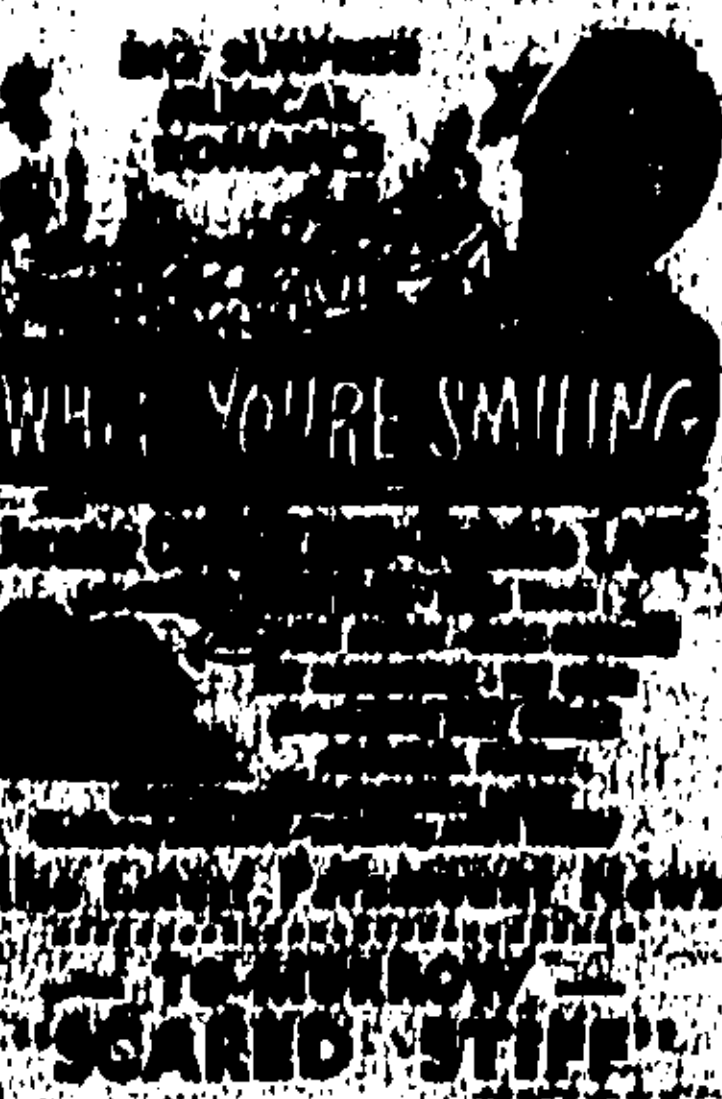
would help cut down overlapping inquiries.

Senator Ellender told reporters Senator McCarthy, "didn't expose any Communists" during the past year but presented the "chased and plagiarized" testimony of other investigating groups.

"Unless we check this man he's going to encroach on the prerogatives of every Committee in the Senate," said Senator Ellender. Ascertaining that Senator McCarthy already had sampled on the floor of other Committees, Senator Ellender said he would insist that the Rules Committee ask Senator McCarthy and other investigating chairmen to present detailed justifications of their money requests.

Senator Harry Byrd (Democrat, Virginia) said he knew of no encroachments on the authority of the Armed Services or Finance Committees, of which he is a member. He said, "I don't think I'd favour depriving an investigating Committee of the right to investigate."—United Press.

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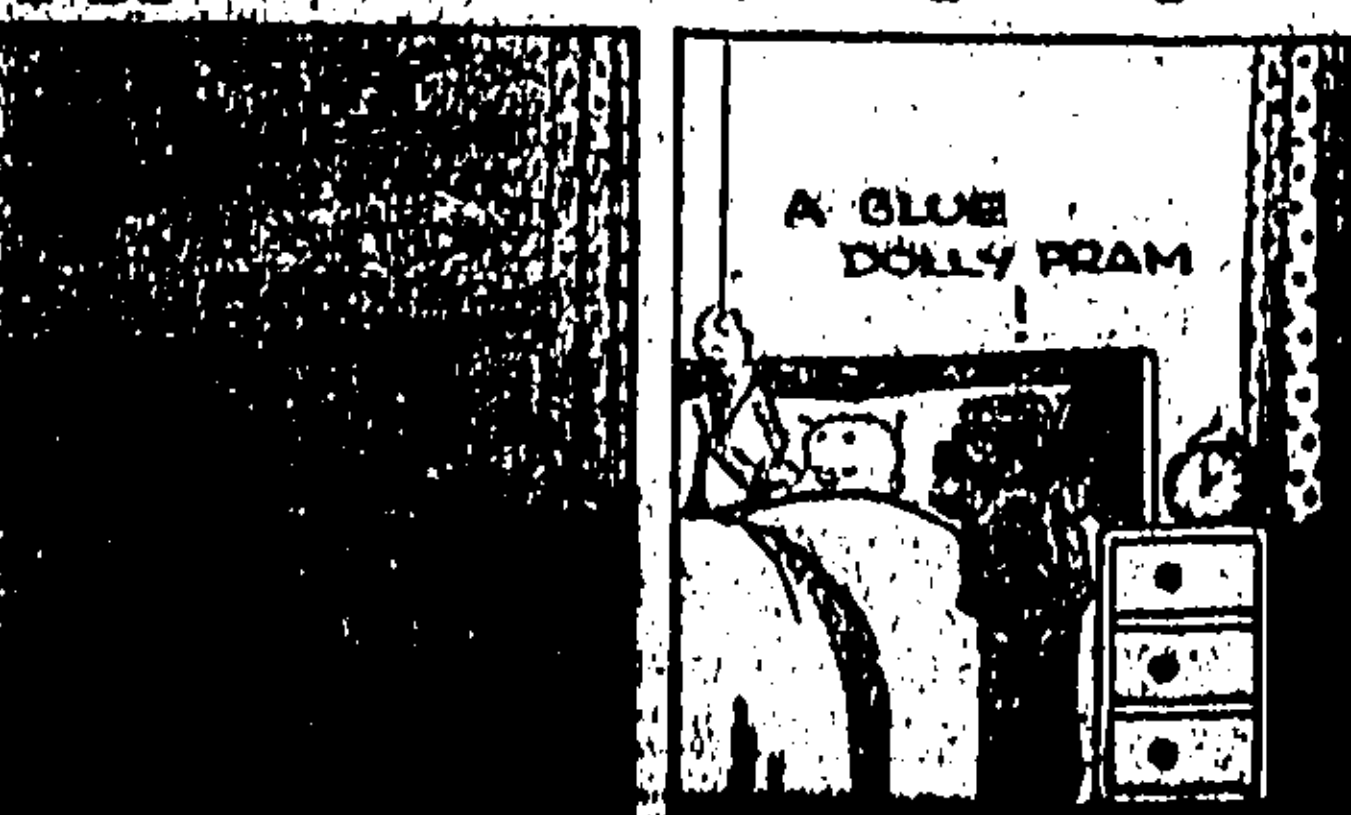
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U.S. CONGRESS MEETS

Early Conflict Seen After Ike's "State Of Union" Message

Washington, Jan. 6.

The Congress of the United States launched into a new session today to cope with President Eisenhower's legislative proposals for 1954 and election year politics.

"From Rags To Riches"

Wilmington, North Carolina, Jan. 6. The proprietor of a roadside cafe told the Police today that two young men slipped soft drinks and played "from rags to riches" on the cafe's juke box last night before robbing him of \$100.—United Press.

Boy Did Not Thwart Plot Against Nixon

Teheran, Jan. 6. A police communiqué today denied that a 12-year-old schoolboy had thwarted a Communist plot against Vice-President Richard Nixon of the United States.

The police said there was no plot and nobody could be found to substantiate the boy's story that he had been invited to visit the United States.

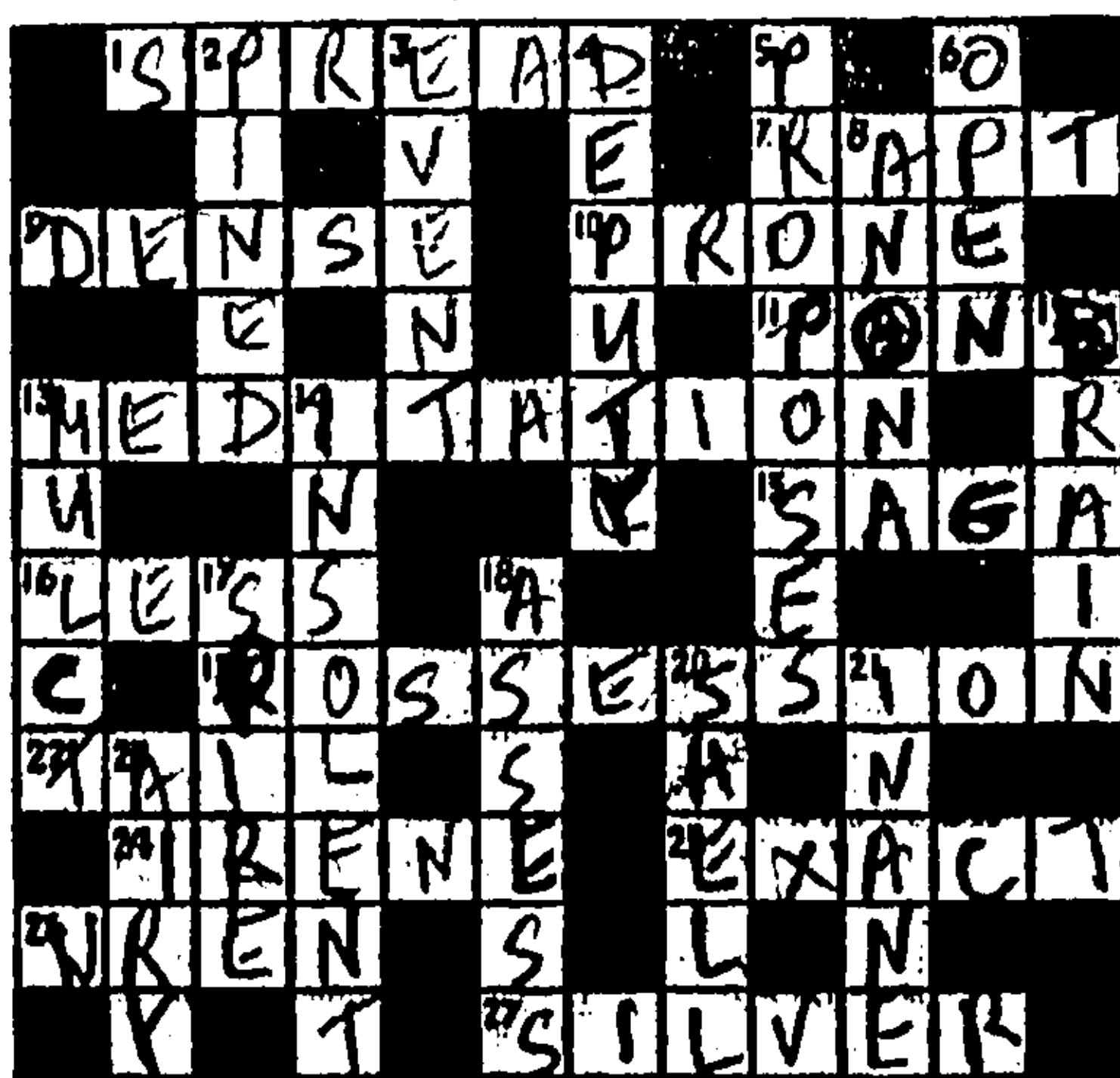
Earlier police statements had confirmed the boy's story. Teheran newspapers have been publishing prominently the story of Sassan Pourtezzadi, which said that Nixon visited Teheran last month, Sassan foiled an attempt against Mr. Nixon.

Sassan said he caused the arrest of Leftists who were distributing anti-Nixon leaflets on December 9, during Mr. Nixon's visit, and that the police found as a result that Communists planned to ram Mr. Nixon's car and throw hand grenades at him.

Sassan said first that Mr. Nixon had invited him to visit the United States. When that was denied, it was reported that Point Four officials were arranging the visit. However, these officials said they knew nothing of any such visit.

Today's communiqué confirmed an earlier police statement that Sassan had been given a medal and a bicycle for bravery. But it was for his bravery in challenging Leftists who were distributing the leaflets, the communiqué said, and not for helping to foil a non-existent plot.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle

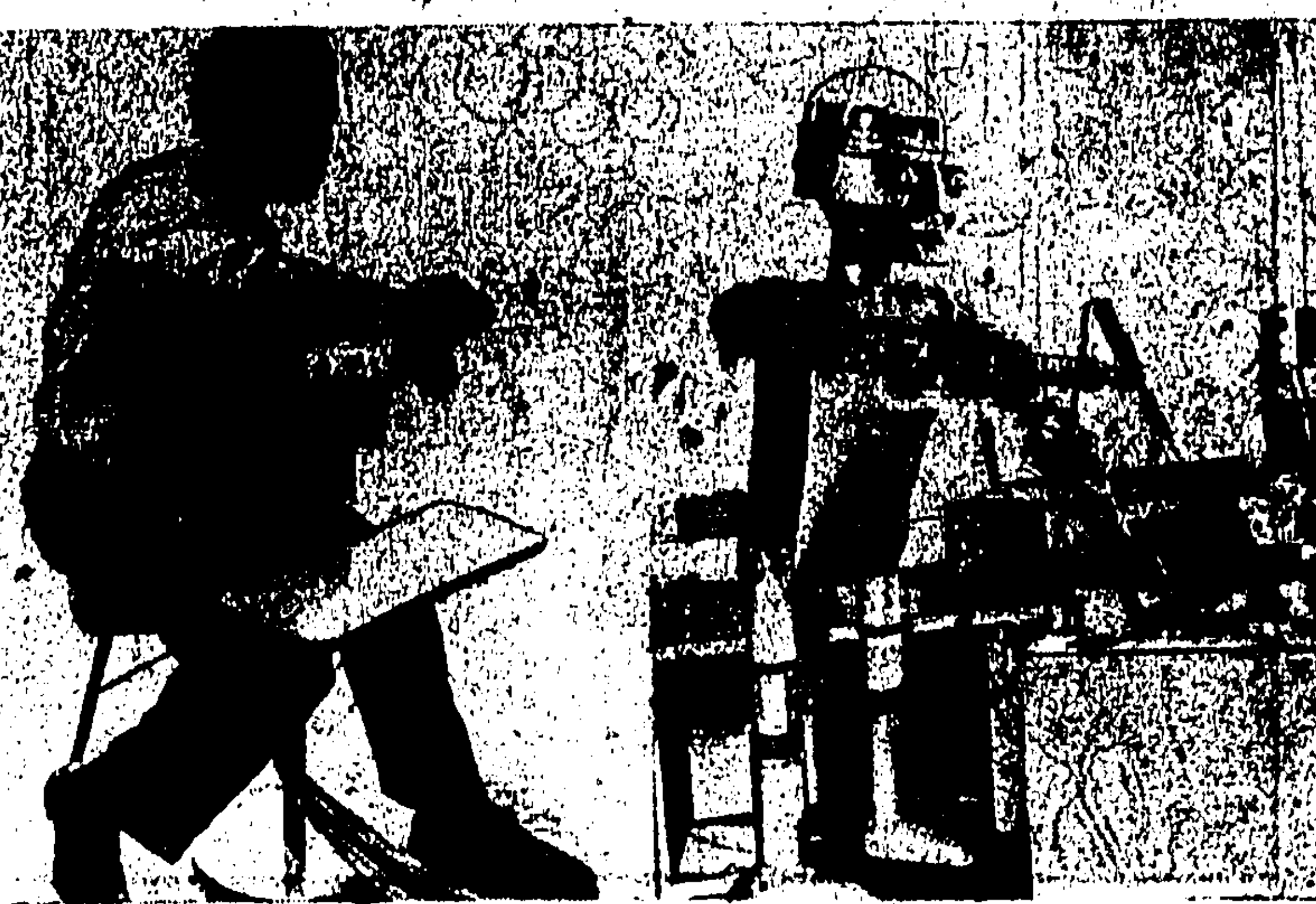


- ACROSS
- Extend (6).
 - Absorbed (4).
 - Stupid (5).
 - Liberal (5).
 - Pool (4).
 - Thought (10).
 - Family story (4).
 - Power (4).
 - Ownership (10).
 - Appendage (4).
 - Girl's name (5).
 - Prevalent (5).
 - Bird (4).
 - Priceless metal (6).

- DOWN
- Longed for (5).
 - Occurrence (5).
 - Substitute (5).
 - Suggests (5).
 - Frank (4).
 - Miss Winnie (5).
 - Sewer (5).
 - Fine (5).
 - Rude (5).
 - Slap (5).
 - Ball (5).
 - Bombard (5).
 - Polish (5).
 - Well-ventilated (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1 Accord, 4 Banal, 7 Donato, 9 Party, 10 Bold, 11 Operate, 12 Niece, 13 April, 14 Agas, 15 Cramp, 16 Sincere, 17 Bold, 18 Unhappy, 19 Refine, 20 Broom, 21 Adversity, 22 Down, 23 Alderman, 24 Conductor, 25 Bite, 26 Arrogance, 27 Assist, 28 Broom, 29 Disturb, 30 Occur, 31 Appoint, 32 Responder, 33 Flood, 34 Dead.

This Mechanical Man Even Plays Chess



Creator Harvey Chapman sits at the control unit—while his "brain child" Garco, a mechanical man—recently "born" in a California U.S. garage, operates an electric arm. He can saw, hammer, drill, mix chemical, pick up papers, stack boxes, roll his eyes and play chess. He was constructed in three months mainly from discarded aircraft parts. The brain is electronic—a neat accumulation of six aircraft servo systems. The nervous system consists of 1,200 feet of wire cable—and a two way radio transmitter enables him to make pertinent remarks. He is operated by remote control. Each arm contains five tiny actuator motors controlled by 22 push buttons which also operates the robot's jaws and lips, increases his height six inches, rolls the eyes and enables him to bow from the hips. The right arm of the robot duplicates every movement of the mechanical arm—that his creator operates at the control unit.—Express Photo.

Exporters Should Pay For "Privilege Of Doing Business" In USA

Washington, Jan. 6.

Governor Robert F. Kennon of Louisiana proposed today that foreign exporters be charged a "concession fee" for the "privilege of doing business" in the United States.

India Will Accept UN Release Date

United Nations, Jan. 6. Indian circles in the United Nations indicated tonight that the Indian Government has decided to accept the United Nations date of January 28 for the release of all prisoners-of-war in Korea.

The Indian Government has thus apparently accepted the United Nations point of view on the liberation of prisoners despite the objections of the Chinese Government.

However, these sources here said that the Indian guards do not at the moment intend to release all the prisoners on one day but over a period of a week or so.

They hoped to avoid possible disorders which might result from the simultaneous release of 22,000 men who are split into two hostile groups.

Fewer Without Jobs In U.K.

London, Jan. 6. There were 321,800 people unemployed in Great Britain on December 7, a drop of 800, since Nov. 16, the Ministry of Labour announced. The strength of Her Majesty's forces decreased by 5,000 to 837,000. The working population rose by 17,000 to 38,524,000. This was more than accounted for by a rise of 22,000 in the female working population which reached 7,598,000.—France-Press.

ROYAL TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

Queen In Bumpy Air Trip —And Then A Sheep Show

Napier, N.Z., Jan. 6.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh had a bumpy air trip today — the 14th day of their tour of New Zealand — as they flew from Rotorua to Gisborne and then on to Napier.

The wind blew at 46 mph during part of the trip and the small de Havilland Heron in which they flew "bucked" heavily.

But at Napier they had a great consolation—the Queen and the Duke laughed as they watched a sheep-shearing exhibition. The Queen who had seen it earlier on the tour, was the expert on this occasion and she explained the technicalities to the Duke as the startled sheep were shorn down in less than two and a half minutes.

The de Havilland Heron aircraft in which they flew today took part in the London-Christchurch air race. Despite bad flying conditions, flights and landings were exactly on schedule.

At Napier, the Queen boarded a car for a three-mile ceremonial drive to attend a civic reception at the town hall. There the Royal couple were seen by a large number of people.

The second part of the day's flying was an 85-mile trip in a Dakota aircraft down to a New Zealand C.O. pilot who recently took part in the London-Christchurch air race.

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Dynamite Plot In Persia: Suspects Hunted

Teheran, Jan. 6.

Persian police tonight redoubled their hunt for underground Communists following the discovery earlier today of 1,000 sticks of dynamite in a Communist hideout near the main Teheran railway station.

Officials claim the dynamite was to be used to assassinate a member of the Shah's Royal family.

While police extended their search for subversive elements into the provinces, General Taimour Bakhtia, Military Governor of Teheran, warned students that any demonstrations in favour of Dr. Mossadegh, the deposed Prime Minister, would be punished by expulsion from their university and a ban on their admission to any other college.

Fifty arrests were ordered by the Military Governor of the personnel from the Persian railway after today's dynamite discovery in a junk shop facing the central post office.

DROGNET THROWN

The police dragnet was thrown round more suspected Communist hideouts tonight following information given by one of the arrested men, and about 80 more arrests were ordered in the Azerbaijan area on the evidence of seized documents.

An official of the railways office said the dynamite was intended to be used a month ago to blow up the train in which the Queen Mother arrived home from the United States. The plot failed, and a second attempt was planned.

Two cases full of "hedious literature", seized in the junk shop, indicated that the plot was organised by Communists abroad, the official said.

The cases contained correspondence with Communist circles abroad and disclosed a plan for outbreaks of violence throughout Persia's election period, he added.—Reuter.

"Third Man" Chase Through Madrid Sewers

Madrid, Jan. 6.

Police today hunted suspected thieves through the maze of Madrid's underground sewers in the style of the film, "The Third Man."

The long pursuit in the dark complicated network of passages ended eventually with three men being captured.

They were believed to be part of a gang robbing lorries parked at city markets.—Reuter.

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Lord Norwich Buried At Belvoir Castle

Grantham, Jan. 6. Lord Norwich, better known as Sir Alfred Duff Cooper, former British Ambassador to France, who died at sea last week, was buried today at Belvoir Castle, the property of the Duke of Rutland.

The funeral was small and only a few persons were present. They included French Ambassador to Britain, M. Rene Massigli, Lady Norwich, who could not undertake the long journey here was present at the memorial service which was held in London and also attended by Premier Sir Winston Churchill.—France-Press.



THEY SING MORE SONGS THAN ANY OTHER SINGING GROUP

A TREAT AT REGULAR CINEMA PRICES

DON IDDON'S DIARY

Less Revelry On New Year's Eve

New York, Tuesday. THE police didn't bother to put up barricades in the streets leading to Times Square (New York's Piccadilly Circus) this New Year's Eve, and the shopkeepers did not board up their windows.

The time when 1,000,000 people gathered in the neon-bright square—the most brilliantly lit of all the world's cross-roads—to greet the brand-new year with yells and rattles and trumpet-blowing is over.

Each New Year the crowd which gazes at the narrow slice of the New York Times building to wait for the signal gets smaller. Television keeps the people at home to see the New Year in at their residences, or rather, their radiators.

I used to make an uncomfortable pilgrimage to Times Square every New Year's Eve, crushed and bruised by revellers; but no more. It is a waste of a journalist's time and energy.

Americans are more sober, inhibited, worried people these days, reluctant to dance in the streets, wave bottles, kiss strangers, and shout themselves hoarse. Perhaps it is world leadership which has quietened them.

Year of decision

ON the whole I don't expect much wild carousing last Thursday night, because the year ahead looks like being a serious one for most Americans. Nineteen-fifty-four is being widely touted as the year of decision. I seem to remember that 1952 and the year before that were also advertised as years of decision, but '54 is declared to be the genuine decisive article.

Already Cabinet Ministers are hinting that they stand ready to counter the slump, known here now as the "slide," with Government spending. The pump will be primed with Government money, credit will be made easier, interest rates will be lower.

It sounds rather like the Roosevelt era again. Republicans who used to damn deficit spending as bad and dangerous economics are now gingerly advocating it.

The Republican wheel has not turned full circle, but some of the schemes to prevent a depression have the stamp, or at least the fingerprints, of the late Lord Keynes, the late Harry Hopkins, and the New Dealers.

President Eisenhower, on a semi-holiday in Georgia, is saying little except that he is not mad at anybody.

I had lunch the other day with one of the President's inner council and he told me: "There has been a remarkable change in the boss since his United Nations address—pool confidence, his aches and pains, which might have been psychological, have disappeared, and he is very definitely the man in charge."

Whether the President's popularity abroad will remain high is one of 1954's big questions.

Fewer dollars quite definitely will be sent to Europe. I don't know whether you realise that the United States has sent 40,000,000,000 dollars—that's over £14,000,000,000—abroad in the eight years since the war.

From each citizen

COLOSSAL sums are always hard to grasp and you probably wouldn't notice if a zero or two were omitted, but it adds down to hundreds of dollars, and in some instances thousands, coming from the pockets of every American citizen and other residents here.

American income tax is almost as high as British and there are hundreds of hidden taxes—more than in Britain.

There has never been such generosity in the history of the world, and we should realise it. We are going to have to realise it anyway, because it is tapering off. Playing Father Christmas to all the free world perpetually can become tiresome.

Many of my friends say: "I suppose we shall be disliked more than ever when the well runs dry."

There is a conviction here that Americans are not liked, and even actively disliked, abroad. The magazine, The Reporter, seizing on this topic, has published a witty article entitled "How to Hate Americans," by M. R. Werner.

Like or dislike?

IT says: "Here are some suggestions:

"1. Hate Americans because they are rich. More Americans have money than people of any other one nationality, and so there are more of them to envy and hate;

"2. Hate Americans because they drink too much. The United States is one of the few nations that ever endured Prohibition. Ever since the 1840's there has been a virulent temperance movement in America. Millions of Americans drink nothing but water or milk;

"3. Hate Americans because they are always thinking and talking about business and work. Point out that the United States has no leisure class;

"4. Hate Americans because they do not produce great art or literature. Do not read Poe, Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, Mark Twain, Henry James, and William Faulkner, or you might change your mind;

"5. Hate Americans because they want to run the world. In this connection it would be well not to call Americans isolationists in the same breath."



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The top Nazi who tried to sway the King

—But he was 'not at home'



RIBBENTROP
A Nazi salute in diplomatic London—1938



FRAU RIBBENTROP
Chatty footnotes—1933

by WILLIAM HAMSHER

HE suffered from The Great Delusion—and it helped to bring him to the harsh reality of the gallows. Today, seven years after his death by hanging as a war criminal, his death-cell justifications have been published in Western Germany under the title of "Between London and Moscow."

Joachim von Ribbentrop was the name. Politics were his business. And his delusion, in the 18 months he served Hitler as German Ambassador in London, was that Britain could be swung into the Nazi orbit.

Ribbentrop used to visit Britain in his youth. He quotes the Prussian Marshal Blucher's view of London: "Clearly a good city to loot."

In 1936 Hitler appointed him as envoy to Britain. To Ribbentrop, London then seemed a good city to loot, politically. But he admits on a later view that "it seemed as though I must have been wearing rose-tinted spectacles."

Rose-tinted? Certainly badly focused. For never was Ribbentrop's distorted view evidenced so plainly as in his record of his activities in London.

Meddling

FOR instance, Ribbentrop, the man who gave the Nazi salute when he presented his credentials to Edward VIII (now the Duke of Windsor), felt himself strong enough to meddle in the constitutional crisis which ended in the abdication of the King in 1936.

The aim of his meddling: To keep Edward as King "because he had several times shown himself to be really friendly towards Germany."

"I racked my brains what I could do," writes Ribbentrop; "whether there was anything left to do to influence the course of events." An abdication rumour drifted down the Mall, Ambassador Ribbentrop phoned Hitler that commentaries against the King appearing in the British Press must on no account be echoed in Nazi newspapers.

Then, "through a friendly middleman in Buckingham Palace I requested an audience."

But back came the reply: the King was not at home. Though he failed with the Palace, Ribbentrop had

already given his mission a wonderful start by signing the Anglo-German Naval Treaty in 1935, under which Germany could start building U-boats.

He called up the Fuehrer in Berlin and had the happiness of hearing Hitler's own voice describing the day of the signing as "the happiest of my life."

Hitler's reward for bringing off the treaty was an unlimited expenses account, and the order for the extension and new interior decorating of the embassy in Carlton House Terrace.

His widow

INTO the book from time to time steps Ribbentrop's widow, who contributes chatty footnotes.

Writes Frau Ribbentrop: "The situation of our embassy between Buckingham Palace and the Admiralty could not have been better. Hitler himself ordered the new interior furnishings. Just at that time Hitler had launched a four-year plan to make Germany independent of a British blockade if war came."

So to save foreign currency everything—even the workers—was shipped from Germany, nothing was bought in London.

Progress

ONCE the embassy was furnished, the Ribbentrops really went to town. And from time to time interim reports went back to Berlin on how they were doing.

The ambassador was working on everybody with whom he could come into contact. He notes his own record of progress towards bringing about an Anglo-German pact. On Stanley Baldwin and Ramsay MacDonald: "I talked to them for a long time about Hitler's foreign policy. Baldwin expressed himself positively. MacDonald didn't seem to disapprove of the idea either. MacDonald, lovable as only the English can be, said jokingly he would certainly vote for me if I put up as a candidate in his constituency."

Mr Eden seems to have impressed Ribbentrop when he was seen "with tears in his eyes at the 1937 Coronation." Of him, Ribbentrop notes: "He did not do anything to make my difficult task any more difficult than it was. He showed understanding for the German viewpoint."

It seems to have been heavy going with Sir Robert (now Lord) Vansittart, who apparently in all his meetings with Ribbentrop turned out to be a very good listener.

Ribbentrop sums up: "If today it is said that Vansittartism and the hatred of Germany summed up in this word is a consequence of the policies of Hitler—then I must counter with the belief it would be far more accurate to say Hitlerism was a consequence of Vansittart's policy in 1936."

Ribbentrop, reporting on his last meeting with Hitler shortly before the Fuehrer died in the Berlin bunker, with Eva Braun in 1945, says the Fuehrer then emphasised he had been anxious ever since the 'twenties that Germany should go along with Britain.

Colonies

THERE is no specific statement from Ribbentrop on what would have been involved in an Anglo-German pact. There are scattered references in the book to the fact that Hitler would not necessarily have asked for all the German Colonies back—perhaps one or two, with special trade terms for Nazi merchants in the others.

Hitler, if Britain had promised him a free hand against Poland and Russia, would also have been ready to offer us 12 divisions "for use wherever they might be needed."

The Workers' Lot Under the Reds

By JULIUS GOULD

Lecturer on Sociology at the London School of Economics

HOW do the workers fare under Communism? This is a vital question, for it is upon their devotion to "working class interests" that Communists everywhere place so much stress.

When they are in opposition, the Communists aim their propaganda at the underdog and the underprivileged, at all those who, in industrial society, feel lonely and disinherited. They exploit every social tension and injustice in their search for support among the masses. And by way of contrast, they paint a glowing picture of the prestige and authority enjoyed by the worker in Communist countries.

A superior social system, they argue, has been discovered and is in sound working order—a system in which the working class reigns supreme. Communists and their friends who visit Eastern Europe bring back carefully chosen evidence to support this case.

How, in fact, does the worker get along in this new social order? Is he really at last emancipated from social injustice? Much evidence is available for a sensible and honest answer to these questions. For in recent months the lid has been blown off the Communist economies of Eastern Europe. The satellite leaders have been faced with the threat of economic breakdown, and in eleventh-hour attempts to restore the situation they have revealed more than they intended about the system they have built up.

Basing ourselves solely on recent statements by these leaders, let us examine one aspect of the position of the working class in Eastern Europe—an aspect of great significance. What protection has the worker vis a vis his employers?

In country after country in the West there exist strong and independent trade union organizations, often politically neutral, charged with the task of defending the interests of the worker against both private and public employers. Genuine trade unions are not part of the

political apparatus of their countries; they jealously preserve the right to negotiate with employers round the table, and if they cannot reach agreement over wages and conditions of work, they reserve the right to withdraw the labour of their members.

In Communist countries the unions exist in name and in form only. In effect they are executive agencies of the Communist Party. It is the Party, not the trade union, which decides what the real interests of the worker are. Thus, by a kind of magic, any conflict of "real" interests between worker and employer is banished.

This is logical enough, for Communist theory insists that the Party, through its study of Marxism-Leninism, knows with absolute clarity what the "real" interests of the population happen to be. Where these interests are "known" in this way, there is no battle point in any body other than the Communist Party offering its opinion. The Party in its wisdom makes known what the interests of the worker require; it then tells the trade union to direct the workers accordingly. If anyone doubts that this is so, the labour laws of Eastern Europe make it abundantly plain; and the labour practice of those countries make it even plainer.

A few examples will show what I mean. In Eastern Germany in June 1953, the harsh Party decrees on wages and labour norms led to an explosion throughout the country, the rumblings of which have not yet died away. If this explosion did reveal a conflict between worker and employer, a gap between the workers' "real" interests and the wishes of the Soviet-controlled State party, words have lost their meaning.

The East German Government's statements which followed the explosion were extremely revealing about the nature of trade union practice. The Communist leader Ulbricht in July explained that "the hated proposals, now withdrawn or modified, had not been worked out with the assistance of the trade union movement." The responsible Minister, he said, had ignored the unions in determining the decrees. "Instead of listening to the recommendations of the trade unions, the State party had lost their meaning."

Such strikes would be, by definition, support of "narrow, particular and local interests" and therefore reactionary and bourgeois! All this is now admitted, by people who ought to know!

From The Palace To The Ritz

By SAM WHITE

Paris. Aubrey, I presume—head chef of Buckingham Palace? Mr Aubrey appeared startled. "Look here, how did you know I was here?" he said. "This thing is absolutely secret."

Secret is sacred. Knowledge of Aubrey's Buckingham Palace background is confined to one of the two managers of the hotel, and Aubrey has been staunchly guarding his presence ever since he arrived here.

To others on the hotel staff Mr Aubrey is simply an appropriate cook from Britain, here to learn more of the trade. Mr Aubrey's job at present is that of "refrigerator" or chef's assistant in the hotel's kitchen. He came here by arrangement with a high Palace official.

The East European trade union movements are in fact a fraudulent facade of the kind familiar to students of totalitarianism. They resemble only in name the free organisations of the working class in non-Communist societies. They operate in a system where disagreement is not merely on fundamentals, but also about important details (such as the contents of the economic plan) is regarded as sabotage, in a system where the State machine controls and dominates the conditions under which their members work.

Even now, no Communist government can admit the principle of trade union independence or neutrality. To do so, would, on Communist premises, be a step backwards to the old and unsatisfactory days of "social democracy."

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"EUMAEUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	25th Jan.

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	Leaves	Sails
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G. "PYRRHUS"	London	Sailed
G. "EUMAEUS"	London	Sailed
G. "ASTYANAX"	London	Sailed
G. "PYRRHUS"	London	Sailed
G. "EUMAEUS"	London	Sailed
G. "ASTYANAX"	London	Sailed
G. "PYRRHUS"	London	Sailed
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No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 8th January, 1954, will be subject to rent.

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Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs. Carmichael & Clarke at 10 a.m. on the 11th January, 1954.

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U.S. Govt. Must Control Atomic Production

New York, Jan. 6. Atomic Energy Commissioner Eugene Ruckelshaus said that the U.S. Government must maintain control over atomic production "as long as this world exists in troubled half-peace."

He told the 58th Congress of American Industry that "national defense is an essential resource of our national defense and must be used in the national interest."

Mr. Ruckelshaus told the Congress, sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers, that the Government was doing all it could to permit private industry to have a share of atomic development.

But, he said, "so long as atomic weapons are important and indeed, even if they are to be controlled as an indispensable element of any world disarmament plan—there will and should be inevitably a real role for Government in the development and regulation of this new energy."

He recommended that any new atomic legislation enacted by Congress "be flexible and give a high degree of discretion to the Atomic Energy Commission in administering the Government's part of the participating partnership with industry."

"I am confident," he said, "that attempts to spell out too precisely (in new legislation) what may be done and how it should be done would be outmoded swiftly by the brisk and steady march of scientific progress in this new field."—United Press.

A-Bomb Proof Fortress In London

London, Jan. 6. The construction of one of the first centres from which civil defence would be directed in case of an atomic attack on London is now finished.

This underground fortress is located in the Southwark District in southeast London and can be reached by descending 16 steps of a spiral staircase. The steel and concrete doors are painted in red. On the left side are the inscriptions reading "Radio-active. Keep out" and "Escape Hatch."—France-Press.

Reward For Bravery—Citizenship Of USA

Washington, Jan. 6.

Representative Francis E. Walter asked Congress today to reward Basil Theodosiou, an heroic Greek seaman, by making him eligible for United States citizenship.

Walter, co-author of the present Immigration Act, introduced a special bill on the opening day of Congress which would grant Theodosiou permanent residence in the United States.

A private bill is necessary because the immigration quota for Greece is exhausted. Theodosiou, who met Theodosiou aboard the French liner Ile de France during a trip to Europe last Autumn, said that the 27-year-old radio operator played a big role in saving 27 men when their small Greek freighter captured in a North Atlantic sea.

Theodosiou, who said, patched up the freighter's wrecked radio equipment, rigged a makeshift aerial and kept broadcast distress signals until the tiny ship slid beneath the sea.

The Ile de France picked up the signals and saved the crew. The scene—United Press.

Ava Gardner To Play In New Film

Rome, Jan. 6.

Mr. Joseph L. Mankiewicz, director of "All About Eve," has chosen Ava Gardner to star in "The Barefoot Contessa," a film he is making here.

Mankiewicz called Miss Gardner in after considering many unknown actresses for the part. She will have to play a Spanish dancer, whom Humphrey Bogart, as a failed film director, picks up in Madrid and brings to Italy to groom for stardom. She becomes a star, but abandons Bogart for marriage with an Italian count.—Reuter.

New Delhi, Jan. 6.

Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru sent birthday greetings to Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov today on the occasion of his 52nd birthday. Mr. Nehru's message, sent in Hindi, said, "I send my greetings and good wishes on the auspicious occasion of your birthday."—France-Press.

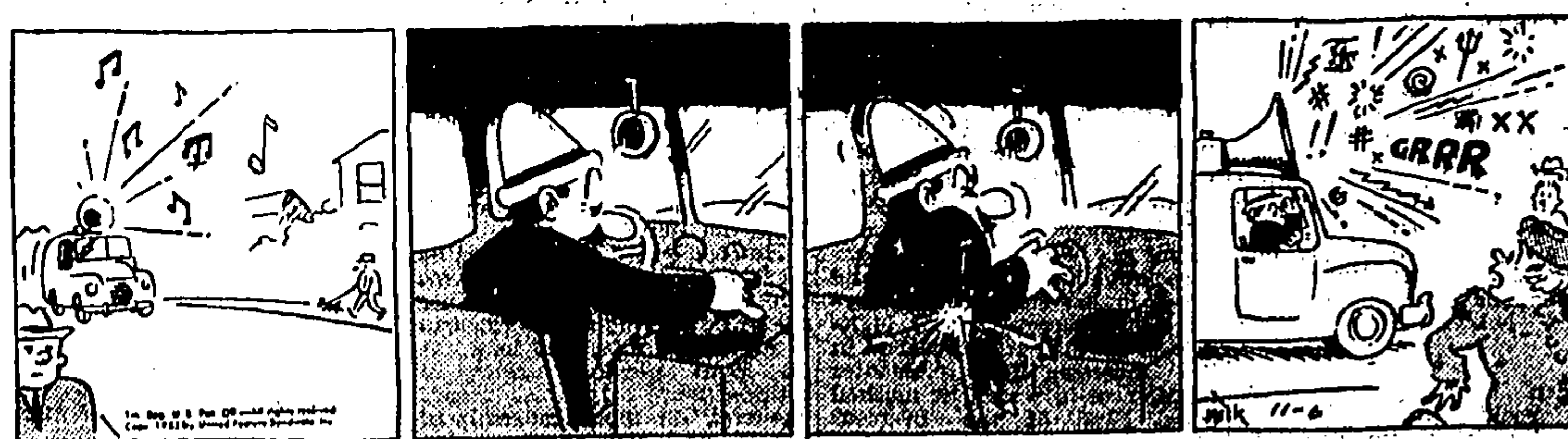
By Lee Falk and Phil Davis

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN



FERNAND

Oh, Mike!



NANCY

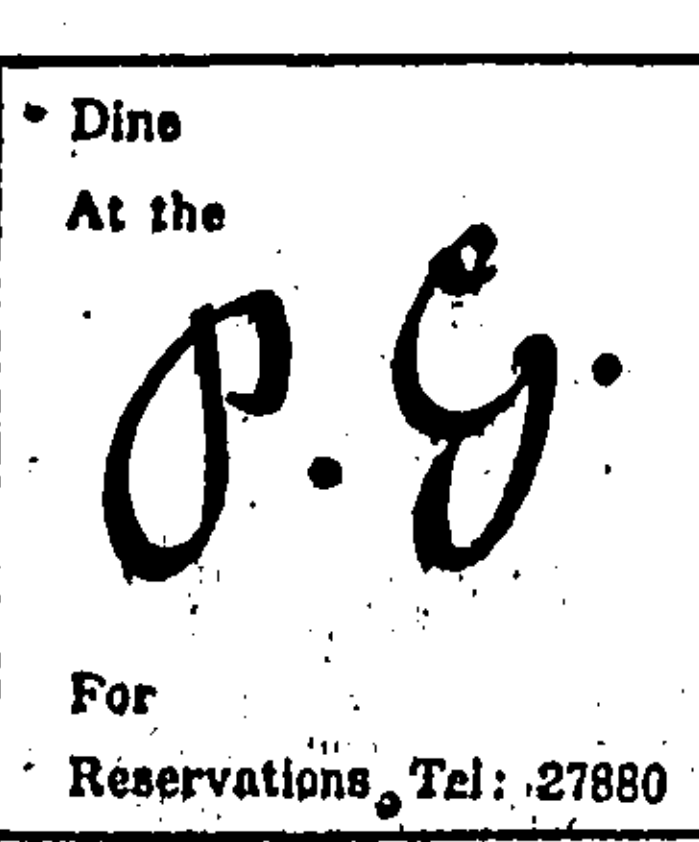
It Never Fails



JOHNNY HAZARD



By Mik



By Ernie Bushmiller



By Frank Robbins



Ancient Copy Of "Omar Khayyam" Sold For \$4,500 US

New York, Jan. 6. The second oldest known manuscript of one of the world's most famous poets, "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," was sold at a public auction for US\$4,500.

A private Pennsylvania collector was the successful bidder.

The Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., handled the auction. They said that the manuscript was dated 1510 AD and was found in Persian leather of the late 15th century.

An earlier manuscript dated 1207 AD is in the library of Cambridge University.

The third copy, dated 1286-80 AD is in the Chester Beatty Library at Dublin, Ireland.

The manuscript is written in Persian, which was an Arabic script.—United Press.

Child Born On Airliner

Gender, Newfoundland, Jan. 6. A girl was born today aboard a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines plane as the big aircraft neared the international airport here.

Suzanne van Bortel, of Amsterdam, Holland, the plane's stewardess, made the delivery 10 minutes before the plane landed. The mother, Mrs. J. J. Schreuder, was en route to Copenhagen. Her husband, a 26-year-old pilot, was in the cockpit.

Neither mother and child were hurt. The mother and child were in excellent health.—United Press.



Picture from behind the "Iron Curtain" of a Gaz-69 road transport vehicle being completed at the Molotov Automobile Plant in Leningrad. The new vehicle has two driving axles and is designed for use on the rough roads of the Soviet countryside. —Express Photo.

Brandy, Ink And Silk Now Come From The Norwegian Pine

Oslo, Jan. 6.

Silk, drinkable alcohol, B vitamins, ink, explosives and vanilla flavouring are some of the varied and unlikely things now being produced from Norwegian forests.

The highly developed wood processing industry in this country is rapidly moving over from mere paper, pulp and wall-board manufacture to the production and processing of new chemicals, for which the plentiful Norwegian pine and spruce trees are the main raw materials.

With one quarter of the country covered by productive forests, it is not surprising that the forestry industry has long been one of the most important in Norway's economy.

A full ten centuries ago, during and even before the Viking period, Norway was already exporting timber and wood products to countries overseas. But through the centuries the best care has not always been taken of the great natural resources comprised in the rich Norwegian forests. Early agriculturists burnt down the trees to cultivate crops in the ashes. At a later date, when the discovery of various ores in the mountains led to a flourishing ore-mining industry, hundreds of acres of birch and pine forests were felled for charcoal burning. Then, areas which for centuries had been sheltered by thick forests were laid bare, and the trees would not grow again.

STARTED IN 1847

So, today, with so many demands being made on them, Norwegian forests can scarcely meet the requirements of the highly developed modern industry which has grown up since the first Norwegian cellulose, or chemically-prepared wood pulp, factory was built near Sarpsborg in 1847.

Today, there are 42 mechanical wood pulp factories in Norway, 20 chemical wood pulp factories, and 49 for manufacturing paper, cardboard, carton and wall-board. It is estimated that, at full production, they consume 100,000 logs of timber each day, 30,000,000 logs every year — or enough to stretch five times round the world at the Equator.

The value of exports from the wood processing industry now amounts to between one quarter and one third of Norway's total exports.

RAYON TOO

Rayon, so widely used today in textiles, is a typical product of chemical wood pulp. Through a series of processes the pulp is first converted into cellulose, which comprises the basis for the manufacture of paper as well as of rayon.

With the addition of lye and carbon bi-sulphide, the cellulose is transformed into a yellowish-brown powder, which is subsequently dissolved in another lye solution to emerge as a light brown syrupy substance known as viscose.

The viscose is then filtered and forced through a jet with thousands of microscopic holes, the smallest of which are no more than seven hundredths of a millimetre in diameter. Upon emerging, the viscose strands enter a bath of sulphuric acid which causes them to coagulate into threads which

can later be spun, wound on spools and woven into cloth. Rayon is now manufactured in many countries, though most of them have to import the cellulose as a basic raw material. For the production of first class rayon, however, this basic raw material must be made from spruce wood of a special quality — wood from trees which have grown slowly.

Norway, with her extensive forests of slow-growing spruce, is obviously the place for the manufacture of this product, and in addition she is also one of the leading sulphur-producing lands in Europe, so supplies of that important raw material are also assured.

Today, Norway is one of the world's leading producers of the particular type of cellulose required for the rayon industry, and in terms of quality its product is regarded as second to none. But it is apparent that Norway's forests alone cannot fully satisfy the wood processing industry's requirements for full capacity production, and there are difficulties in filling this gap by importing wood from other countries.

The pulp mills have therefore had to refrain from increasing their capacity in their efforts to reach a stronger competitive position. Instead, the stress has had to be put on the reduction of production costs without increasing output, on improving quality, on the higher utilisation of waste materials, and on seeking to increase the total forest output by the utilisation of the large quantities of timber now regarded as second choice material.

TWO KINDS OF PULP

There are two kinds of wood pulp, sulphite and sulphate; the main difference being the kind of wood used and the chemicals used in the boiling acid which dissolves the impurities.

Until now, the waste lye from sulphite production has not been utilised, but plants are in hand for converting it to fuel concentrate, fermentable sugar, and alcohol. Already, there is a flourishing business supplying alcohol to the Norwegian Vines and Spirits Monopoly, which on this basis produces cheap types of aquavit, brandy and liqueur. Other by-products now being manufactured are turpentine, tannic acids, methanol, plastics, and waxes, ink, resin, acids, animal foodstuffs, and inflammable film, aluminium rich in vitamin B, flavouring materials, and various solvents used in the paint and lacquer industry.

Idyllic Life Of The Fijians Gone Forever

Suva Fiji, Jan. 6.

Life is losing some of its idyllic qualities for the native people of the tropical Fiji Islands. More carefree days when the Fijian could be content with a tawny-thatched house in which to live and a diet taken from the sea, the coral reefs and the mangrove swamps, seem gone for ever.

If he is to win the battle for economic survival in his own country, the Fijian today must change his ways.

For today, the Fijians are faced with rapidly growing competition from the Indian population, whose rate of increase threatens ultimately to swamp the indigenous race — even though the Fijians themselves are increasing in number.

To meet this threat, the Fijians have been told that they must produce more and more cash crops.

Their communally owned land reserves — which they hold under clear-cut pledges from Britain to maintain sufficient land for Fijian needs now and in the foreseeable future — are eyed with open covetousness by non-Fijians.

But the authorities have made it clear to the Fijians that their reserve must be used to the full. The Governor, Sir Ronald Garvey, made this point in opening the Budget session of the Fijian Legislative Council recently.

DEVELOP THE LAND

The Fijian monetary system, he said, had narrow foundations and was largely at a subsistence level. As a matter of urgency, the Fijian people should adopt every measure available to broaden the basis of their agricultural production by developing their land to the fullest extent.

He said the Fijian Social Service legislation should be amended to make it possible for the reserve must be used to the full. The Governor, Sir Ronald Garvey, made this point in opening the Budget session of the Fijian Legislative Council recently.

He suggested that what he called "development officers" should be appointed to see that this was carried out.

Their task, for example, would be to see that sugar cane crops are sown at the right time and properly tended, and that coconut groves are cleared and kept free from undergrowth. Sir Ronald added that if the traditional social structure of the Fijians and communal organisation came into conflict with economic development, "adaptations may be necessary."

REMARKABLE PROGRESS

This does not mean that the Fijians do not already make an enormous contribution to the overall economy of the islands. The Governor cited examples of what he described as the remarkable progress made by the people in the last 50 years.

Today, Fijians account for more than half the colony's output of copra, Fiji's second largest industry.

The banana export trade to New Zealand is entirely in Fijian hands.

Goldmining, the third largest industry, would be helpless without hundreds of capable Fijian workers.

Waterside work at the ports is a Fijian reserve, and nearly all other forms of productive activity are largely dependent on Fijians.

There is also today a gradual expansion of Fijian sugar cane farming, which accounts for six per cent of the total output of this mainly Indian industry.

DRASTIC SKIMMING

In addition, there is the fairly drastic skimming of Fijian youth for the army in Fiji, and for the four-year stay of the Fijian 1st Battalion in Malaya.

For unknown reasons, the total number of men serving with the Fiji Military Force is not made public, but it is known that between 800 and 900 Fijian soldiers are in Malaya.

If the young soldiers serving in Fiji were added, the proportion of young men withdrawn from civilian life would be considerably higher than in other countries. There are also complicating factors, such as the incidence of tuberculosis.

Fijians are by far the greatest sufferers from tuberculosis in Fiji, though exact figures are not published.

But, these factors, alone will not "kill" the Fijians from being regarded economically and numerically by the Indians, and they may have to make changes in their way of life, to meet the need for economic development in a new and changing world.

Russian Gold Boosts U.K. Dollar Earnings

By SYDNEY CAMPBELL
(Reuters's Financial Editor)

London, Jan. 6.

Britain's gold and dollar reserves fell by only \$43 million during December despite a payment of \$181 million on her North American debts at the end of the year, the Treasury announced.

The gold and dollar reserves now stand at \$2,818 million, it added.

The reserves had increased in every one of the previous 11 months of 1953. Without the annual debt payment on New Year's eve December would have shown an increase of \$133 million.

The debt payment apart, December was the best month of the year for the gold and dollar reserves, thanks partly, though not wholly, to the Bank of England's recent big receipts of Russian gold.

It would hardly have sent the actual Russian gold bars to Washington and Ottawa, to meet the year-end payments. But the Russian gold undoubtedly helped Britain to meet the annual payment of the North American loans which she has to repay in 1954, and has to repay in annual instalments for the rest of this century.

BEST FIGURE

Excluding the debt payment the earned surplus with the world outside the European Payments Union area jumped from \$92 million in November to \$114 million in December, by far the best figure of the year. Some of this striking improvement must have been due to the Russian gold.

Official quarters refuse to disclose how much Russian gold the Bank of England has received. An unofficial guess is that Russian gold might comprise roughly half of the \$114 million.

A Treasury spokesman pointed out that, however much might be ascribed to Russian gold, a substantial part of the December improvement must have been due to other and presumably less sporadic causes.

Provisionally the Treasury also announced that Britain had a deficit in December with the European Payments Union of \$2,100,000, contrasting with a surplus of \$3,200,000 in November.

DEBT REPAYMENT

Almost the whole of the December EPU deficit was also due to a debt repayment to Britain's overdraft with the Union. Receipts of defence aid from the United States fell from \$24 million in November to \$22 million in December.

During December, Australia repaid to the International Monetary Fund \$12 million of the \$50 million that Australia had drawn from the Fund in 1949 and 1952.

If this Australian debt payment also came from the sterling area's central reserves in London, it can be calculated that the sterling area in December earned a world surplus of \$126 million.

This was by far the best showing for any month of the year competing with a surplus of only \$41 million in November and with an actual deficit of \$13 million in October. The reserves may have benefited from some Russian gold in November too, though probably far less than in December.

London Wool Tops

London, Jan. 6.

The wool tops futures market closed steady with a turnover of 75 lots. Closing futures prices were:

January	148 1/2
February	148 1/2
March	148 1/2
April	148 1/2
May	148 1/2
June	148 1/2
July	148 1/2
August	148 1/2
September	148 1/2
October	148 1/2
November	148 1/2
December	148 1/2

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

New York, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

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Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

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January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

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January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

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Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

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Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148 1/2.

Prices were per lb. — United Press.

London, Jan. 6.

Wool tops futures closed today steady. Prices:

January 148 1/2, February 148 1/2, March 148 1/2, April 148 1/2, May 148 1/2, June 148 1/2, July 148 1/2, August 148 1/2, September 148 1/2, October 148 1/2, November 148 1/2, December 148

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CHINA MAIL

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NEW
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BALLPOINT
PEN
RUBY
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\$16.50

Page 10 THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1954.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Friend Of London

ALFRED is a Londoner. Except for one or two day excursions—Sunday School treats as a boy, works outings as a man—he has lived the whole of a long life in London. For the last 40 years or so a single small room in Soho has been his home.

CAP IN HAND

INSTEAD of sitting at home with his sorrow, he spent his days where people were to be found. In the streets and the bustling markets, in pubs and steamy little cafes, Alfred every day enlarged his circle of friends and acquaintances. He did a little begging, too. As much, I suspect, for the people he met that way, as for the money.

A policeman, the other evening, saw Alfred standing just outside a tube station, on the fringe of Soho. He took with his cap held out before him.

ARREST

AS the policeman watched from the other side of the street, two people put money into Alfred's cap.

Next morning, Alfred ponderously hoisted himself into the dock at Great Marlborough Street, and grumbled and muttered so much into his moustache when the charge was put to him, that Mr. Paul Bennett, V.C., the magistrate, instructed the court to assume he was pleading not guilty.

The policeman, standing by the dock, so that Alfred might hear what was said, told his story.

VAGUE

"HE'S down on my register as being 62 years old, but he's surely much older than that," the magistrate interposed, as Alfred muttered to himself, deep, unimpassioned things about the evidence.

"I believe he is very vague about how old he is, sir," the quaver said.

Alfred decided the time had come for him to speak. "I was only fifteen my pipe," he growled, "when this young feller he pointed to the policeman) come up an arrest me."

"In the cap, when I arrested him," said the officer, going on doggedly with his story, "was a sixpence and 2d. in copper."

CAN'T STOP 'EM

"WHEN he was searched later he was found to have on him £3 10s. in notes, 42s. 6d. in silver and 7s. 6d. in copper."

"Doing nothing but having a smoke," Alfred said.

"But what about these people jutting money into your hat?" the magistrate asked.

"Very likely they was," said Alfred, "can't stop 'em doing that, can I?"

"I can't believe he's only 62," said the magistrate again, and called for Mr. Charles Morgan, the probation officer.

"His age varies a good deal," Mr. Morgan said, and he told the magistrate about the death of Alfred's wife, and of his children gone abroad.

"Well, either he's stupid or dishonest," the magistrate said.

"Dunno what I was taken for," Alfred put in.

"Well, him he's fined 40s., and that he'd better not smoke his pipe on street corners," the magistrate said.

They told Alfred that. His muttering became a little more explosive, but he allowed himself to be helped from the courtroom, and led to pay the money. Then they set him free to join his friends—the entire population of London. With one or two notable exceptions.

Low-Level Bombing Of Vietminhese

Paris, Jan. 7. French Bearcat fighter-bombers, diving down to tree-top level, bombed and machine-gunned Vietminh troops in a major engagement last Tuesday 25 miles north of Seno airfield, main base of new French defence line, according to reports received here last night.

The Communists left behind their dead and wounded, as well as machine guns and other arms, as they fled into the jungle. The battle, the first major flap-up since the Communist-led Vietminh reached the Mekong river in their spectacular Christmas offensive, started when hundreds of Vietminh ambushed French paratroopers on a reconnaissance mission for their own lines in thick jungle country.

Outnumbered by the Vietminh, the paratroopers were at a disadvantage until the Bearcats intervened.

Military quarters here believed this battle was likely to delay any Vietminh attempt to drive south along the Mekong river towards the approaches to Cambodia. Only patrol activity was reported from the other sectors of the Indo-Chinese battle theatre. There was still no sign of the expected Communist assault against the French base of Dien Bien Phu, on the Laos-Tonkin border. Military quarters here thought the Vietminh Command might try to bypass this base and the Mekong river defences in the second round of their winter offensive. In any case, the French commanders are prepared for such an eventuality, these quarters said.

Vietminh guerrilla units yesterday ambushed a large Cambodian lorry convoy about 45 miles north of Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

The former commander of Cambodian paratroopers, Major Smith, was killed in the violent engagement in which both sides were reported to have suffered considerable losses.—Reuter.

WINNING FIGHT WITH SEA

Cuxhaven, Jan. 6. Six plucky Greek seamen were winning the battle with the sea today—just two years to the day since Captain Kurt Carlsen's "Flying Enterprise" was taken in tow.

Rescue ships began pumping water out of the 5,570-ton tanker Lerops, grounded since Sunday on a North Sea mudbank.

Greek sea Captain Nicos Papageorgio stood on his floodlit deck throughout the night to direct salvage work.

The near-gale winds had subsided enough to allow three rescue vessels alongside with huge pumps.

The skipper and his five "stey-pet" crew members worked in icy blasts and sleet to prevent the oil-laden tanker from further cracking.

They stuck to the listing and watered Lerops after it was delivered by gale winds onto the mudbank, although officers on German rescue vessels warned that the ship might crack open at any moment.

Twenty-four other Greek crew members were taken off the ship at the height of the storm on Monday by the German rescue vessels Just and Hindenberg.—United Press.

Possible Soviet Demand

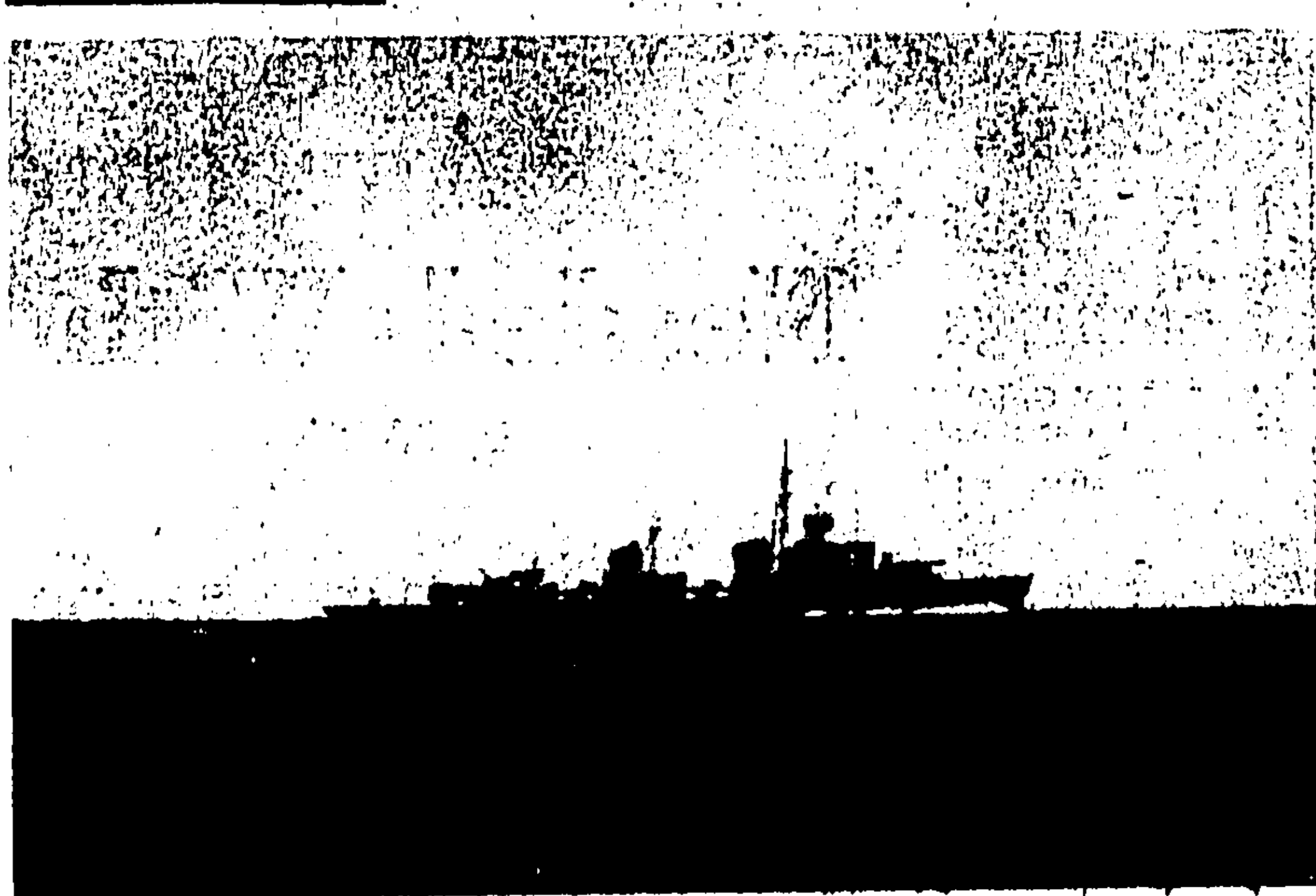
(Continued from Page 1)

such proposal, these officials said.

Allied officials have noted recently a distinct change in the "general line" of the East German press on the Berlin conference. Originally, its attitude was that the Western powers, especially America, were trying to prevent the conference. Later the tone changed to "they will come, but the Americans will walk out at the first opportunity."

This line was kept up until about a week ago, when suddenly the East German press began to speak of the golden opportunities the conference would offer and suggested that chances for real progress towards a German reunion were great.—Reuter.

New Soviet Ship For Baltic Fleet



The Red Navy has added four new destroyers to its Baltic fleet—of the so-called Skori type. One is pictured here. Russia's Skori destroyer is reported to be an improvement on its predecessor. It is equipped with the latest reconnaissance and range-finding radar. Its armament—four 5.1-inch guns in two turrets, two 3-inch ack-acks, seven 37 mm. automatic guns and eight torpedo tubes in quadruple sets. Twelve of these ships are being built according to Swedish naval intelligence—and when completed will increase the Red Navy's destroyer strength in the Baltic to 30. Parallel with an expansion of the submarine arm, in their Baltic programme, the Russians are concentrating on fast cruisers, motor torpedo boats and armoured motorboats.—London Express.

Wants US Oil Imports Policy Reviewed

Washington, Jan. 6. The Independent Petroleum Association of America announced today that it had submitted to the Commission on Economic Policy, (the Randall Commission) a report asking a review of United States oil import policies.

It stressed the growth of production and refining capacity outside the United States in excess of consumption in those areas. There is a growing surplus of oil outside the United States, resulting primarily from the rapid development of oil resources in the Middle East.

The report noted that these areas of the Middle East are relatively close to the Russian border. "In the interest of security there should be a distinction, in foreign trade policies, between trade in basic materials essential to defence, as contrasted with normal trade in commodities, producible and reproducible in factories and fields," said the report. "In the case of strategic materials such as petroleum United States foreign trade policies require separate and specific consideration."

"In the formulation of United States foreign trade policy, it is recommended that consideration should be given to the fact that the fundamental principle and paramount objective of national petroleum policies should be the maintenance of a healthy domestic industry capable of supplying requirements at all times with a reserve capacity adequate in the event of emergency."

Unlike imports of most other commodities, the petroleum import trade is carried on primarily by American companies. As a result, part of the import dollar goes into formal foreign exchange while another part is returned to private American concerns.

POLICEMEN'S DAY

Rome, Jan. 6. Rome police blow their whistles today standing knee-deep in wine.

Piled around their umbrella-covered traffic posts were jugs of "vino", baskets of fruit, bouquets of flowers, strings of balloons, slides of frozen meat and mountains of pastry.

These were the traditional Epiphany (Twelfth Night) holiday gifts of Rome's motorists, especially the drivers of business firms anxious to display their brand names in the middle of the street.

The police abstained for a day from collecting fines on the spot, but it made very little difference to the traffic situation. Rome traffic is chaotic every day.—United Press.

THIEVES STEAL POWER CABLE

Cable thieves cut off the supply of electricity in a small area of San Ching, near the San Miguel Brewery in the New Territories, when they stole some 80 yards of wire during the night. Power was restored by the China Light and Power Company by 10.30 this morning.

Five Appeals Dismissed

Remarking that the appellant was convicted on the clearest possible evidence of obtaining money by false pretence, Mr Justice C. W. Reece, Pulisne Judge, dismissed an appeal against conviction brought by Lee Sung, at the Appeal Court this morning.

Lee was convicted by a Magistrate, Kowloon, on a charge of obtaining money by false pretence, claiming that the house he had sold belonged to him.

In his appeal, Lee said that the house was given to him by his eldest aunt, who had bought it with the money emitted to her from abroad. He added that he was falsely accused by his third aunt who had claimed that the house belonged to her.

DANGEROUS DRUGS
An appeal against conviction on a charge of possession of dangerous drugs brought by Chung Fut-chi was also dismissed by Mr Justice C. W. Reece.

An application for reduction of sentence of \$500 and two months was also rejected by the Judge.

Presentation Of Trophies By Governor

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, presented the Cup and Shield to the units which won them during the annual police review at a brief impressive ceremony in the compound of the Kowloon Police Headquarters this morning.

The Governor was accompanied by the Commissioner of Police, Mr A. C. Maxwell, and was received on arrival by Mr P. I. M. Irwin, Assistant Commissioner, Kowloon, and the New Territories.

He was then led round to the presentation table in the compound, where the units gave him a Royal Salute. Mr W. Segre, Senior Superintendent, Kowloon, then informed His Excellency that the men were ready for inspection.

During the inspection, music was provided by the Police Band, under the direction of Mr W. B. Foster.

On returning to the table His Excellency presented the Governor's Cup to Chief Inspector R. Davis, who received it on behalf of the Emergency Unit, Kowloon, and the Shield to ASP (Reserve) William Eu, who received it on behalf of the Police Reserve No. 2 Contingent.

Addressing the men, His Excellency complimented them on the smartness of their turnout. The ceremony ended with another Royal Salute, after which His Excellency left.

Chooses To Go Home

"Do you want to go to gaol for medical treatment, or do you want to go home?" Mr Hing-shing Lo asked Wan To, a 28-year-old coolie, at Central this morning.

Wan gripped his crutches tightly, straightened up, and said firmly, "I want to go home."

The accident occurred when Wan and his friend, Ng Kun, broke away from two Police Constables on November 22. They were re-arrested and charged with possession of an opium pipe and escaping from Police arrest.

Wan pleaded not guilty to possession of an opium pipe and was discharged on that count. He was, however, convicted on the second charge, but was cautioned and bound over in \$150 for one year, "in view of injuries received," the magistrate said.

Ng Kun, admitted both charges and was fined \$400 or 10 weeks.

The opium pipe was found in an unlicensed hut in Belcher Street, which was occupied by both defendants.

COLLISION

A black Plymouth private car and an Auxiliary Fire Service truck were in collision at the junction of Nathan and Cernavon Roads shortly before 11 a.m. today. No one was injured but one side of the private car was badly damaged.

Threatens To Jump From Building

A young Chinese caused some excitement early this morning by standing on the roof of a three-storey tenement building at 73 Wooming Street and threatening to jump off. An ambulance from the Fire Brigade rushed to the scene, but the man was eventually dissuaded from the threatened leap by the Police.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for registered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest times for letters, which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are given in the list below. Particulars regarding parcel postage can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7	
By Air	
Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, U.S.A.	8 a.m.
Canada, 6 p.m.	
Philippines, By Surface	
Macao, 6 p.m.	
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8	
By Air	
Thailand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Siam, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 8 a.m.	
Formosa, Japan, Korea, 1 p.m.	
Philippines, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.	
India-China, 6 p.m.	
N. Borneo, Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.	
Malaya, Indonesia, 6 p.m.	
China, People's Republic, 8.30 a.m.	
Macao, 6 p.m.	
Japan, Ceylon, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain and Europe, 11 a.m.	
Indonesia, Noon.	
Japan, Canada, 1 p.m.	
Thailand, 3 p.m.	
Macao, 6 p.m.	

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T.
6.00 Time Signal and Programme Summary; 6.05 Jazz Half Hour presented by John Day (Studio); 6.30 Portuguese Half Hour (Studio); 6.50 Weather Report; 7.00 Time Signal, World News and News Talk (London Relay); 7.15 David Saperston (Phono) plays "Artist Life Waltz" (John, Studio); 7.30 "Down Memory Lane" presented by Aileen Woods (Studio); 8.00 "Hill Parade—The Week's Top Times presented by Bernard Hicks (Studio); 8.15 "Edwina Archie with Peter Brough and Archie Andrews (BBC78); 9.00 Time Signal, Sports Review and Choice of the Opera-Comique, Paris, cond. by Albert Wolff; 10.15, 1953 A Year to Remember; 10.30 "Diary of the Year's Outside Broadcasts are turned back, to remind you of some you may not have heard or would like to hear again (Recorded London Relay); 11.00 Weather Report; 11.15, Good Night Music; God Save The Queen; 11.30, Close Down.

'What's Her Line?' Solution CLUB HOSTESS

London Express Service.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"You've got the sniffles, too! You're the boss, and could have stayed home, but I've got an important job to do!"

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